

➔ Hidden Waltz CD Release

Jazz Voice Guitar Song Intimacy Inspiration

Edith van den Heuvel is a Dutch jazz musician from Holland, but has lived in Luxembourg for 15 years. Since moving here in 1994, Edith has participated in a variety of music and theatre collectives, including Voices International, Pirate Productions and her own quartet, the Edith van den Heuvel Quartet. The enthusiastic jazz singer is currently part of the Cologne Big Band, as well as her duo project with Dany Schwickerath, with whom she has recorded 'Hidden Waltz', her first personal CD.

When Edith first moved to Luxembourg the jazz scene was, needless to say, rather dry. "I wanted to sing jazz when I first arrived in the Grand Duchy, but there was not much going on in Luxembourg at the time. There was, however, a very active jazz club in Trier and I got involved with the jazz musicians there. The music scene in Trier had a totally different atmosphere." As the music scene picked up in Luxembourg over the years, Edith has played at the Abbaye de Neumünster's Apéro's Jazz with her quartet as well as Liquid and other private events.

Edith met renowned guitarist from Trier Dany Schwickerath about four years ago. "Dany is one of the best musicians in the area and I first met him when we played together in one of Liquid bar's Thursday evening sessions," Edith recalls. "We then started playing together in bars and receptions and parties in Trier. More recently we have played at a combination of parties and receptions in Luxembourg." The big date coming up in Luxembourg for the jazz duo is the Hidden Waltz CD Release Concert at L'Inoui on 6 February 2010. Edith has released CDs as part of a band but not her own, and Hidden Waltz was released in Germany September 2009 on the Trier-based label Portable. "'Hidden Waltz' has been a very intimate project in comparison to releasing a big band CD. As a duo you really get to know each other, to read each other and form a strong element of trust. You develop ideas together as you go and integrate them later on. A song develops every time you play it."

Where did the inspiration for the name of the CD and the song choices come from? "Myself and Dany were sat in the studio together after having had recorded most of the tracks, when it suddenly occurred to me that there was no waltz on the CD. Dany thought about what I'd said and then replied that there are hidden waltzes in the songs in some of the guitar riffs that he plays. Aside from the musical interpretation of the title, 'Hidden Waltz' also refers to the nature of the tracks, most of which are love songs."

Hidden Waltz is a collaborative effort in every sense, with each musician contributing to the production and the track list of the CD. "Half of the songs were already on our repertoire. We both chose tracks to go on the CD, and, like jazz itself, it sort of came together on its own," says Edith smiling. "We chose instinctively, though with an idea to have a variety of songs. We chose tunes that we really like, that work together, that inspire us, but had no preconceived theme in mind. But if you look at the tracks on the CD, such as 'A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square' or 'When Lights Are Low' most of them are about love, romance and relationships." As regards their style, Edith tells me "We like to keep it straightforward, and look to give the essence of a song first and then each add our personal touch."

Edith fell in love with jazz music at the young age of 15, mostly listening to Ella Fitzgerald. Just what is it about Jazz that draws you to it so much? "The most important thing in Jazz is that it's different, that it's moving, that it's alive. It's always changing and exciting, you just don't know what is going to come out," Edith describes. "As a guitar player Dany is always improvising, and together our songs can always be different, whether in terms of tempo or mood. He will start playing and I will follow, and as the song goes on we play off each other. We go with the flow of the music. The most beautiful thing about jazz music is that you're in the moment and just go with it."

Clear passion for Jazz music aside, Edith expresses her concerns regarding the jazz scene today and the difficulties performers face. "There are so many musicians out there but nowhere to play. It is not easy to find a venue or event to perform at." One piece of advice Edith gives to musicians out there is to "get involved as much as you can. Jam sessions are definitely the place to meet and get to know other musicians."



Hidden Waltz CD Release at L'Inoui on 6 February 2010 with
Edith van den Heuvel (vocals) & Dany Schwickerath (guitar)

Can't wait until next year? Need a Christmas gift idea? Get your hands on Schwickerath and Van den Heuvel's first CD 'Hidden Waltz' on www.portabile.de. To hear a sample of Edith van den Heuvel's music head to www.myspace.com/edithvandenheuvel